

The *Platypterygidæ* is a small family of easily recognized forms. The body is rather slight, the parts fairly proportioned. The mouth parts are moderately developed, the ocelli are wanting and the male antennæ are pectinated. The legs are subequal in length. The wings are large and broad, the primaries distinctly falcate, giving the species a characteristic appearance. Both fore and hind wings have one internal or free vein only, and 5 is nearer to 4 than to 6; an oblique, somewhat sinuous vein closing the cell. On the secondaries the subcostal branches, giving rise to 6 and 7, before the end of the cell. The proportion and form of the wings give the venation a somewhat butterfly-like appearance.

Coleoptera of the Mountainous Region of North Carolina.

By PHILIP LAURENT, Philadelphia, Pa.

I had often desired to take a trip to the mountains of North Carolina, and when my friend, Dr. Skinner, made the proposition for a two weeks' collecting trip to this region, I at once consented. We left the city of Philadelphia on July 5th on board the 7.40 P. M. train, arriving at our destination, Cranberry, N. C., after a ride of twenty-four hours. A good night's rest and a breakfast of hot corn-cakes, oat-meal and hot potatoes, washed down with a glass of fresh milk, and we were ready for a hard day's work. From recent articles that I had read I was led to believe that many rare and possibly new species would be found in this region, and possibly there may be among the foot-hills or during the months of June and August, but I doubt it very much owing to the nature of the country, which consists of nothing but forest-covered hills and mountains, very little land being under cultivation. My first day's collecting convinced me that little new material was to be found, as the majority of the species captured represented old, familiar faces that I had often seen while collecting in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Much rain had fallen during the two weeks previous to our arrival, which may partly account for the scarcity of insect life. During our two weeks' stay I captured two hundred and twenty-eight species of Coleoptera, represented by about fourteen hundred specimens, among the lot being a few rare species. Among the rarer species taken and species not generally found in the Northern and Middle

States, I might mention the following as being of particular interest to the Coleopterist: *Cychrus canadensis* Chd., *Pterostichus grandiceps* Chd., *Mycetina perpulchra* Newm., *Endomychus biguttatus* Say, *Dellometopus amœnicornis* Say, *Microrrhagus triangularis*? Say, *Corymbites hamatus* Say, *Agrilus acutipennis* Mann., *Geotrupes Balyi* Jek., *Anomala marginata* Fab., *Centrodera decolorata* Harr., *Toxotus cylindricollis* Say, *Leptura biforis* Newm.

Our collecting was all done at an elevation of three thousand feet and upwards, the highest point reached being that of Grandfather Mount, the height of which is close to six thousand feet. I was in hopes of adding some new material to my collection of water beetles, but of them it might properly be said that they were conspicuous by their absence. *Gyrinus analis* Say, or a closely allied species, being the only water beetle observed, the icy coldness of the streams and ponds no doubt accounting for the absence of water beetles as well as other aquatic insects.

A NATURALIST'S FLEAS.—A naturalist, who is both an ardent student in his branch of science, and absent-minded to a degree which keeps his family on the alert, recently celebrated his silver wedding. Many guests were invited for the occasion, and the house was made ready for the reception of the company.

Just as the first guest arrived one of the daughters was sent to summon the father, who had not come from his study. Care had been taken that he should be reminded to dress in time, so he was all ready, and at the summons the daughter noticed that her father carried in his hand a small wooden box, and as he shook hands with the nearest guest she saw him drop it. The cover rolled off, but she gave a sigh of relief when she saw that the box was apparently empty.

The naturalist, however, uttered a cry of dismay, and instantly went down on his hands and knees in a vain attempt to gather up something.

"Have you spilled anything, father?" she asked.

"Spilled anything!" he echoed, in evident indignation over her calm tone. "I have lost fifty fleas that I have just received from Egypt!"

The effect of this intelligence on the family was nothing in comparison to the effect the catastrophe had upon the company before the evening was over, and the only thing that the naturalist said to his friends in answer to their congratulations upon his happy married life, so his daughter declared after all was over, was to ask that if they carried away any of his Egyptian fleas they would return the insects to him.—*Newspaper*.